

Appl. No. 10/812,644
Amdt. Dated September 4, 2007
Reply to Office Action of June 04, 2007

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REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

Amendments to Specification

The specification has been reviewed and amended in respect of minor grammatical errors, informalities, and clarifications only.

Amendments to Claims

Claims 1-13 were pending in the present application before the amendments, as set forth above. By these Amendments, claims 1-13 are canceled. New claims 14-29 are added mainly in order to patentably define the invention over the cited references. All the amendments find support in the specification and drawings as originally filed. No new matter is entered.

Claim Rejections Under 35 U.S.C. 102

Claims 1-7 and 13 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(e) as being anticipated by Ting (US 6,665,455).

In response to the rejections, applicant has canceled the claims 1-7 and 13, rendering the rejection thereof moot. Moreover, applicant has added new claims 14-22, and respectfully asserts that the claims 14-22 are patentable.

Regarding new added claim 14, this, in pertinent part, recites:

A digital camera module for use in a portable electronic device, comprising: ...

wherein the tube element is disposed on the base, the base comprises a bottom portion engaging with the printed circuit board, the

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bottom portion comprises a first sidewall, a third sidewall opposite to the first sidewall, and a second sidewall interconnecting the first sidewall and the third sidewall, at least one of the first and the third sidewalls has a holder means for holding the printed circuit board, the second sidewall has a support means for supporting the printed circuit board, and the printed circuit board is located within the holder means and the support means. (Emphasis added.)

In contrast with claim 14, as shown in FIGS. 2-6 and as understood by applicant, Ting discloses an image-sensing module includes a top cover 100, a bottom cover 200, a set of optical lenses module 300, at least one elastic pressing strap 400, 401, an image-sensing transistor 500, and a soft-type circuit board 600. The bottom cover 200 can be attached with the top cover 100 or detached from the top cover 100 (col. 3, lines 30-45). Sidewalls of the bottom cover 200 form two positioning pegs 203, 204 and one unmarked positioning peg, the top cover 100 correspondingly defines two positioning holes 103, 104 and one unmarked positioning hole, and the soft-type circuit board 600 defines three corresponding positioning holes (not labeled, but shown in FIG. 3). The positioning peg 203 and the unmarked positioning peg respectively engage through the positioning holes of the soft-type circuit board 600 and then engage into the positioning hole 103 and the unmarked positioning hole of the top cover 100. The positioning peg 203 and the unmarked positioning peg, which could, for sake of argument, act as the holder means claimed in claim 14, holds the soft-type circuit board 600. The positioning peg 204 engages through the positioning hole of the soft-type circuit board 600 and then engages into the positioning hole 104 of the top cover 100. The positioning peg 204, which, for sake of argument, may be termed a support means, as claimed in claim 14, supports the soft-type circuit board 600. At this time, the soft-type circuit board 600 is

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located within the top cover 100 and the bottom cover 200 and not within the positioning peg 203, the unmarked positioning peg, and the positioning peg 204. Thus, Ting, in effect, teaches away from the printed circuit board being located within the holder means and the support means, as per claim 14.

Moreover, as the soft-type circuit board 600 are located within the top cover 100, and the bottom cover 200, via engagement of the positioning pegs 203, 204 and the positioning holes 103, 104, the elastic pressing straps 400 and 401, resists against the soft-type circuit board 600 and thus secures the soft-type circuit board 600 (col. 3, lines 57-64, FIGS. 4 and 6). As such, the positioning peg 203, 204 and the unmarked positioning peg, which, again, for sake of argument, may serve as a holder means as in claim 14, holds the soft-type circuit board 600. The elastic pressing straps 400 and 401 (for sake of argument, a support means as in claim 14) supports the soft-type circuit board 600. However, the elastic pressing straps 400 and 401 are separated from the top cover 100 and the bottom cover 200 (shown in FIG. 4). Thus, Ting, in effect, teaches away from the second sidewall of the bottom portion having a support means, as required in claim 14.

Furthermore, the other cited references (including US 2002/0142798) do not disclose or suggest the combination features of "the printed circuit board is located within the holder means and the support means" and "the second sidewall of the bottom portion has a support means", as per claim 14. Thus, applicant submits that Ting, whether taken alone or in combination with any of the other cited references, does not anticipate or otherwise render obvious all of the limitations in new added claim 14 of the present application. Thus, new added claim 14 is patentable under 35 U.S.C. 102 or 103 over Ting or any other cited references, taken alone or in combination. Reconsideration and withdrawal of the rejection and allowance of new added claim 14 is respectfully requested.

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New added claims 15-21 directly or indirectly depend from independent claim 14 and, therefore, should also be allowable.

Claim Rejection Under 35 U.S.C. 103

Claim 8-12 is rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Miyake. (US 2002/0142798) in view of Ting (US 6, 665,455).

In response to this rejection, applicant has canceled the claims 8-12. Moreover, applicant has added new claims 23-29, and respectfully asserts that the claims 23-29 are patentable.

Regarding new added claim 23, this, in pertinent part, recites:

A portable electronic device, comprising:

a camera module, comprising: ...

wherein the tube element is disposed on the base, the base comprises a bottom portion engaging with the printed circuit board, the bottom portion comprises a first sidewall, a third sidewall opposite to the first sidewall, and a second sidewall interconnecting the first sidewall and the third sidewall, at least one of the first and the third sidewalls has a holder means for holding the printed circuit board, the second sidewall has a support means for supporting the printed circuit board, and the printed circuit board is located within the holder means and the support means. (Emphasis added.)

In contrast with claim 23, as shown in FIGS. 1-9 and as understood by applicant, Miyake discloses a cellular phone equipped with an imaging device. Miyake does not at all disclose, teach or suggest the structure of the camera module. Thus, Miyake combined with Ting. and the other references do not disclose or suggest the combination features of “the printed circuit board is located within the holder means and the support means”

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and "the second sidewall of the bottom portion has a support means", as claimed in claim 23.

Thus, applicant submits that Miyake, whether taken alone or in combination with any of the other cited references (including Ting), does not anticipate or otherwise render obvious all of the limitations in new added claim 23 of the present application. Thus, new added claim 23 is patentable under 35 U.S.C. 102 or 103 over Miyake, Ting, or any other cited references, taken alone or in combination. Reconsideration and withdrawal of the rejection and allowance of new added claim 14 is respectfully requested.

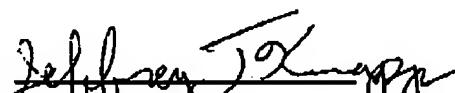
New added claims 24-29 directly or indirectly depend from independent claim 23 and, therefore, should also be allowable.

In view of the above remarks, the subject application is believed to be in a condition for allowance, and an action to such effect is earnestly solicited.

Respectfully submitted,

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